

TEACHING SERIES

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INTERRUPTIBLE.

You can measure the character of a man by the way he responds to interruptions.

Think about the last time you were interrupted. Did you respond with patience & curiosity? Or was it a touch more frazzled & frustrated? If it's the second answer, you're not alone. The vast majority of us are constantly fighting for moments of peace in the midst of increasingly busy schedules.

Jesus had plenty to get done during his three years in ministry - and yet, as he traveled from town to town, he remained completely interruptible.

Jairus interrupted Jesus' plans & implored him to come heal his twelve year old daughter. On their way there, a bleeding woman interrupted Jesus yet again, desperate for healing herself. He could have easily kept walking. In fact, he could have completely healed her and *still kept walking toward Jairus' daughter*.

But he allowed himself to be interrupted. In doing so, he made time to see her & make sure she knew she was being seen. He made sure the crowd paused & got to see what God had done - a miracle.

Jesus was decidedly unhurried.

What is God doing around us that we haven't had a chance to be part of (or even notice) because we can't be bothered to stop? Because we can't be inconvenienced or interrupted? This week, let's slow down, look up, & have the chance to see God moving all around us.

IN THE BIBLE.

LUKE 8:40-56

On the other side of the lake the crowds welcomed Jesus, because they had been waiting for him. ⁴¹ Then a man named Jairus, a leader of the local synagogue, came and fell at Jesus' feet, pleading with him to come home with him. ⁴² His only daughter,^[a] who was about twelve years old, was dying. As Jesus went with him, he was surrounded by the crowds. ⁴³ A woman in the crowd had suffered for twelve years with constant bleeding,^[b] and she could find no cure. ⁴⁴ Coming up behind Jesus, she touched the fringe of his robe. Immediately, the bleeding stopped.

⁴⁵ "Who touched me?" Jesus asked.

Everyone denied it, and Peter said, "Master, this whole crowd is pressing up against you."

⁴⁶ But Jesus said, "Someone deliberately touched me, for I felt healing power go out from me." ⁴⁷ When the woman realized that she could not stay hidden, she began to tremble and fell to her knees in front of him. The whole crowd heard her explain why she had touched him and that she had been immediately healed. ⁴⁸ "Daughter," he said to her, "your faith has made you well. Go in peace."

⁴⁹ While he was still speaking to her, a messenger arrived from the home of Jairus, the leader of the synagogue. He told him, "Your daughter is dead. There's no use troubling the Teacher now."

⁵⁰ But when Jesus heard what had happened, he said to Jairus, "Don't be afraid. Just have faith, and she will be healed."

⁵¹ When they arrived at the house, Jesus wouldn't let anyone go in with him except Peter, John, James, and the little girl's father and mother. ⁵² The house was filled with people weeping and wailing, but he said, "Stop the weeping! She isn't dead; she's only asleep."

⁵³ But the crowd laughed at him because they all knew she had died. ⁵⁴ Then Jesus took her by the hand and said in a loud voice, "My child, get up!" ⁵⁵ And at that moment her life^[c] returned, and she immediately stood up! Then Jesus told them to give her something to eat. ⁵⁶ Her parents were overwhelmed, but Jesus insisted that they not tell anyone what had happened.

QUESTIONS.

Feel free to talk through some or all of these questions

- 1.) What sticks out to you in the verses above? What encourages you? Challenges you?
- 2.) What do we learn about Jesus & his character from this section of Scripture?
- 3.) Why do you think Jesus chose to stop and speak with the woman instead of simply healing her quietly and moving on?
- 4.) What are some practical ways you can create space in your schedule to be less hurried & more interruptible?

TAKE TEN:

- How did you see God work in your life this week?
- What has God been teaching you in His Word?
- What kind of conversations are you having with your pre-Christian friends?
- What good can you do around here? (in your life/circumstance)
- How can we help you in prayer and what do you want us to ask you about next week?

Whenever you read the Bible, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What does this tell you about God?
2. What does this tell you about yourself and the world?
3. How is this going to change who you are and how you live?